

Sample Slab Update #9 – February 2016

The newsletter for sample slab collectors

Book News – First Edition Printed Book Sold Out

The first edition of Sample Slabs is sold out and I do not plan to print more. If you do not already have one, Jim Cauley of Errors and More (eBay seller [recclm50](#)) has a few left. With only 100 copies printed, they will not be easy to find anywhere else. Some sold for \$55 and \$57.50 on eBay.

Also, you can still buy a PDF through [SampleSlabBook.com](#) for \$14 or on [eBay](#) for a few dollars more. I plan to make a second edition, with a target of September 2016.

PCGS Displays Sample Slabs at January FUN and February Long Beach shows

PCGS debuted at the February 1986 Long Beach Expo and their 30th anniversary commemorations included a massive sample slab display at two major coin shows. I had the opportunity to see the display at Long Beach this month and I must tip my hat to the advanced PCGS collectors who provided samples: Tim Larson (owner of most of the holders), Robert Klein, and Bob Paul. I knew of several of the samples, such as the two-coin holder, the Franklin half dollar green label, and the hand-cut doily, only from photos until I saw this exhibit.

Bob and I spent quite a bit of time looking over the samples together at Long Beach. Cosetta Robins, a PCGS registry set manager who oversaw the display, was kind to both of us and took a few photos.

Tim Larson provided [plenty of photos of the display](#) in his FUN show report at the Collectors Universe forum.

Market Notes

Common samples continue to show strong prices. For example, the PCGS green-label wheat cents graded “Authentic” (PCGS-001-9-3), valued at \$4 in the catalog, are selling for \$12 - \$20. The impressive but common NGC Peace dollars (NGC-100-3-3) catalog at \$70 but now sell for around \$120. I know a few collectors who have been hoarding cheap samples, and it looks like their tactic will pay off.

Scarce and notable samples are also strong, such as the Accugrade quarter (Accugrade-025-1-1) that sold on eBay for \$152.50 on 1/11 and the NGC Girl Scouts (NGC-025-4-23) that earned \$164.75 on 1/21. Some rare samples that only a specialist would recognize, however, went for surprisingly low prices. Two Coins in the Classroom slabs with mintages or 40 or less sold for under \$40 each. The premium for NGC low serial and serial #001 samples, also, appears to have ended.

The most interesting new discovery in the last two months was the NGC holder made for noted numismatic author David Lange’s 2001 wedding and



NGC holder for David Lange’s 2001 wedding

holding a medal resembling a 1794 cent. One of the wedding guests sold two of the holders in the last month. They sold quickly in Buy It Now sales for \$100 and \$70.

NGC Makes Samples of Its New Holder



In 2015, NGC debuted a new holder with an all-white label and the text aligned to the left. This is similar to the label used by NGC for ancient coins for the last few years and some people call this the “ancient style” slab. I consider this a major generation and will call it the type 5, adding to the four existing NGC generations.

Although grading services often give away samples to familiarize customers with their updated products, NGC did not distribute type 5 holders at major coin shows for a few months. This is understandable, as NGC now seldom gives samples to the general public. At the Hong Kong International Numismatic Fair in December 2015, however, they gave away at least a few new style holders, labeled “SAMPLE” and holding 2015 Kennedy presidential dollars. I do not have a photo.

Easier to find in the United States are the 2015-P Kennedy half dollars given to NGC Collectors Society members at their luncheon at the January 2016 FUN show. Two of these made their way to eBay so far, where they sold for about \$30 each.

Sample Slabs in The Numismatist Archives – Cameron Kiefer References.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the American Numismatic Association recently made the entire 1888 – 2016 run of its journal, *The Numismatist*, available online to members. Most Sample Slab Update readers know that Cameron Kiefer made the vital sampleslabs.com, updating the site from 2003 through 2006. Kiefer’s name appears in 22 issues of *The Numismatist*, starting when he was listed as a new member in December 1997. (The *Numismatist* used to publish the names of all new members and sponsors.) Most of the mentions are brief notes that he sponsored a member or made an “in-kind” donation (any donation other than cash) and others list him as instructor at Summer Seminar classes.

When the ANA named Kiefer the Outstanding Young Numismatist of 2002, his employer, Worldwide Treasure Bureau, took out this full page ad as congratulations. See the next page. Note that the award is known both as Outstanding Young Numismatist and as Young Numismatist of the Year. Kiefer was about 20 years old at the time.

Ad congratulating
Cameron Kiefer

The Numismatist
September 2002

Congratulations To Cameron Kiefer

**upon the occasion of his being named as the
ANA's Young Numismatist of the Year for 2002.**

No one at Worldwide Treasure Bureau was in the least bit surprised when Cameron was selected for this honor. We have been privileged to have him as an intern, colleague, and friend while he completes his college education.

Cameron is full of enthusiasm for the hobby, with a gift for researching and writing about coins and the history behind them in a manner which brings them to life for the readers of our catalogs. He is active in the Visalia Coin Club, where he was recently elected to a fourth term as Vice President. Among his many community activities, he is a Visalia Police Department Explorer who has been pictured and written about in our local newspaper. He has been an intern at ANA headquarters and has authored several award-winning articles—all while carrying a full class load at a local college.

Our hats are off to Cameron for being recognized by the American Numismatic Association as the Young Numismatist of the Year. Of course, we already knew he was an exceptional young man, and with or without this award, he is number one here among his co-workers and friends at Worldwide Treasure Bureau. We are really proud of him, wish him the best in all of his future undertakings, and look forward to continuing to work with him in the months and years ahead.



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Buying and Selling

My main collecting goal is to own a sample from every grading service. I am looking to buy samples from these graders:

Accugrade

AHCGS

CMC

DCGS

Global

INGS

NGS

Numex

TruGrade

Any grading service not listed in [Sample Slabs](#).

I will pay, at a minimum, the catalog price (if there is one) plus shipping for any holder marked “sample” from these services. I will also consider promotional, novelty, and other slabs from obscure graders. Let me know what you have.

Sample Slab Update #9 – February 2016 (sent 2/14/16). By David Schwager, Fountain Valley, California. davidschwager@hotmail.com. Please email me to be added to or removed from the mailing list. Comments and submissions are welcome. See SampleSlabBook.com for past issues.